

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Periodic review of big dams

1825. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to make periodic review of big dams in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome of such reviews; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India constituted the National Committee on Dam Safety in October, 1987. This Committee oversees dam safety activities in various States/organisations and suggests improvements to bring these in line with the latest state-of-the-art consistent with the Indian conditions. The committee also monitors follow up action on recommendations of the report on Dam Safety Procedures circulated in July, 1986. Dam Safety cells have been set up in 12 States which are responsible for periodic inspection of all the large dams in the States/organisations every year to repair the deficiencies. A number of old dams in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan have been strengthened under the World Bank Aided Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Programme. This Ministry has in July, 2001 also written to the Chief Ministers of all the States to review the safety of old dams by setting up a Task Force of experts to make a quick structural assessment.

New source of water in Rann of Kutch

1826. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ISRO Satellite pictures taken after the earthquake in Gujarat show large quantity of water in the arid zone of Rann of Kutch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to harness the new source of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The post-earthquake Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) 1D imagery show a number of possible stream channels in Rann of Kutch, which are not visible in pre-earthquake imagery of the same area. The schemes of water resources development and use are formulated and implemented by the State Government since water is a State subject.

Erosion problems in coastal Orissa

1827. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing acute water logging and soil erosion problems of coastal States particularly Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa have reported soil-erosion due to river bank erosion. Water logging problems has been reported from Orissa and Gujarat States only. In Orissa, the districts affected severely by water logging problems are Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Puri, Khurda, Jaipur, Bhadrak, Ganjam and Balasore. An area of 1.96 lakh ha. are liable to water logging out of 64.20 lakh ha. arable land in Orissa.

Flood Management being a State subject, flood control projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

At places where water logging has already taken place, remedial measures are being taken for which a new component "Reclamation of water logged areas in irrigated commands" has been included under the Command Area Development Programme since 1.4.1996. Under this component, 50% Central assistance is admissible to States on matching basis. At present the norm of Central assistance is @ Rs. 6000/- per ha. or 50% of the total cost of the reclamation whichever is less.